

# Winnebago-Boone AGRICULTURE in the Classroom<sup>SM</sup>

Teacher Newsletter

August, 2018

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a statewide educational program. The goal of AITC is to help students, teachers, and the general public gain a greater awareness of the role agriculture plays in the economy and society. Locally, AITC is excited to start its fifth year serving Winnebago and Boone county schools with "in-school field trips" available at **no charge**. Last year we visited nearly 60 area schools and met with over 27,000 students.

We encourage you to book your classes for both semesters as soon as possible. This will help us plan our staffing needs for the year and insure that you book the classes and dates you want!

For additional information or questions about the program, contact Diane Cleland at (815)962-0653 or email [wfbaitc@live.com](mailto:wfbaitc@live.com).

All programs align with the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Classes can be tailored for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade learning needs.

Programs are presented by the Ag Literacy Coordinator or a staff Ag Educator. AITC will bring all necessary materials and provide teaching time, visual aids, and hands on activities for your students. Most programs leave behind materials for teachers to use for continued learning.

To schedule an event contact:  
Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau  
1925 S. Meridian Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61102  
Phone: (815)962-0653  
Fax: 815-962-0022  
Email: [wfbaitc@live.com](mailto:wfbaitc@live.com)



*Students are building an Apple Chain to reinforce the life cycle of an apple as part of the "Amazing Apples!" AITC presentation.*



Search Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Ag Literacy on Facebook, click the Like button, and keep up to date on upcoming events and programs!

## K-4th Grade Classes – Fall Semester

### September and October



#### **Amazing Apples!** *(Designed for grades K-2)*

Students will learn about apples: apple growth, trees, and changes that happen throughout the seasons. It's a great way to celebrate fall apple picking season. Our program pairs well with Apple orchard field trips! Students will make an apple life cycle craft to show what they learned. Duration: 45 minutes.

#### **Popular Pumpkins!** *(Adapted for grades K-4)*

Students will learn about the pumpkin cycle, the history of pumpkins and their importance in Illinois! It's a great way to tie the fall holidays into your curriculum. Students will make a pumpkin necklace or a pumpkin life cycle craft to show what they learned. Duration: 45 minutes.



#### **Some Pig!** *(Designed for Grades 3 & 4)*

Celebrate National Pork Month in October with a lesson about amazing pigs and what they provide for our world besides meat! Students will explore the life cycle of a pig, animal husbandry of a hog farm, and all the bi-products from a hog. The activity will include a STEM building activity where students will "build" a hog barn.

## November & December

#### **Thanksgiving Feast!** *(Adapted for grades K-4 during November)*

Students will learn how their Thanksgiving meal starts on a farm, goes to the grocery store, and finally ends up on their dinner tables. For a treat, students will make pumpkin pie in a bag! Duration: 45 minutes.



#### **Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Illinois!** *(Designed for grades 3 & 4 during November and December)*

Celebrate Illinois' 200<sup>th</sup> birthday with a lesson about the history of agriculture in Illinois! AITC has partnered with the Paulson Ag Museum and will share information and artifacts about the evolution of agriculture in Illinois, as well as discuss agriculture's contribution to our state's economy. The inventions of John Deere and Cyrus McCormick will be included. This pairs well with the ISBE lesson plans for the state celebration. December 3<sup>rd</sup> is Illinois' birthday party, so please reserve early to ensure a booking date.



#### **Jolly Ol' Evergreen Trees!** *(Designed for K-2 in December)*

Students will learn about the production, history, and growing stages of Evergreen trees through a story book as well as visuals. Students will also participate in a hands on activity. The program helps to get the winter holidays off to a great start, and will help you tie agriculture into your curriculum! Duration: 45 minutes.



# K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes -Spring Semester

## January & February

### Farmers...Football...Fun! *(Adapted for K-4)*

As the Super Bowl hype ramps up during January, students will learn how agriculture plays a huge role in the game of football and the party foods we enjoy! Students will learn about dairy, hogs, cotton, wheat, corn, and veggies. A football craft is included. Duration: 45 minutes.



### Delicious Dairy...Celebrate National Milk Day! *(Adapted for K-4)*

January 11<sup>th</sup> is National Milk Day! Help your students learn about milk and dairy products and their importance in a balanced diet. Students will learn how milk is produced, processed, and ends up in the grocery store. Students will enjoy a dairy treat. Duration: 45 minutes



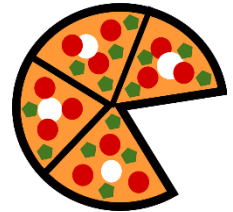
### Cotton Roots....Celebrating Black History Month *(Designed for Grades 3 & 4)*

If your class is learning about Black History Month, why not include a lesson about cotton production? During the class, students will learn how cotton grows, the many uses of cotton in our society, and have a chance to learn to “clean” cotton before the cotton gin was invented! Duration: 45 minutes

## March

### Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture *(Designed for K-2)*

Students will learn how all the ingredients on a pizza begin on a farm! Students will learn about dairy, pork, wheat, and veggies! For an activity, they will make personal paper pizzas to take home. Duration: 45 minutes



### Marvelous Maple Syrup! *(Adapted for K-4)*

As the temperature warms up and the snow starts to melt, the maple sap starts to run! Students will learn how sap is harvested and turned into syrup. Students will be introduced to the properties of a chemical change and taste maple syrup. Duration: 45 minutes

### Wondering About Wheat? *(Designed for Grades 3 & 4)*



How much do you and your students know about wheat? This program pairs well with a plant unit in science. Students will learn about the life cycle of wheat from seed to harvest. They will also participate in a hands on threshing activity and wheat grinding. Duration: 45 minutes. **\*\* Upon request a gluten lesson can be included\*\***

## April and May

### Gardening Greatness *(Adapted for K-4)*

Students will learn first-hand about plant germination and growth while they plant a seeds and watch them grow! Older students will make a “garden in a glove” and younger students will plant a “sprout house”. They will explore tomatoes and peppers and learn how farmers grow their favorite veggies! Duration: 45 minutes



### Busy Buzzing Bees & Picky Pollinators *(Adapted for K-4)*

LOOK OUT! BEES ARE ALL THE BUZZZZ! Explore the world of Bees with an interactive lesson discussing the importance of bees and other pollinators in agriculture and the world food supply. This lesson includes a hands on activity for students. Duration: 45 minutes

# AITC Programs for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade

## Offered September - May

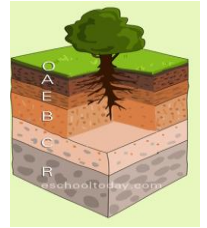


### Cotton Roots

If your class is learning about plants or even Black History Month in February, why not include a lesson about cotton production? During the class, students will learn how cotton grows, the many uses of cotton in our society, and have a chance to learn to “clean” cotton before the cotton gin was invented! Duration: 45 minutes

### Super Soils and Wiggly Worms:

Students will explore different types of soil, the importance of soil, and how farmers manage the soil to grow the best possible crops. A hands on activity will allow students to examine the characteristics of sand, silt, and clay. Duration: 45 minutes; works best in a science lab or multipurpose room. Water/sink required. ***\*\*Upon request: Classes will have the opportunity to explore composting worms and their importance to the soil\*\****



### Water, Water Everywhere!

Water is a precious commodity and highly valued by agriculture. In this lesson, students will learn how farmers work to protect the water system. Students will do a hands-on activity demonstrating how water runs off the topography of the land and observe a bioreactor demonstration! Duration: 45 minutes; works best in a science lab or multipurpose room. Water/sink required.

### Powerful Pollinators

LOOK OUT! POLLINATORS ARE THE BUZZZZ! Explore the world pollinators with an interactive lesson discussing the importance of pollinators in agriculture and the world. This lesson will explain the complimentary relationships between pollinators and the plants they pollinate. Duration: 45 minutes



### Genius Genetics

Ever wonder why you look the way you do? It's Genetics! Students will get to try their hand as scientists to problem solve and create a new breed of beef cattle using Punnett squares. We will also go over some terms associated with Genetics, as well as how genetics are used in modern agriculture. Duration: 45 minutes

### Within the Seed: Monocots and Dicots

This program pairs well with a plant science unit and is best suited for older students. During this program students will learn about different types of seeds, the parts of a seed, and the importance of seed maintenance. Students will perform an experiment looking at specific seed parts and compare and contrast the starch content of a soybean versus a corn kernel. Duration: 45 minutes



## AITC Program Request and Planning Form

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Teacher Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Teacher Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section Class Schedule

*(Please allow at least 5 minutes between classes for reset/move time.)*

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Time Slot</u>
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Program Name		1 <sup>st</sup> Date Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Date Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Date Choice
<i>Limit one program per month per grade</i>				

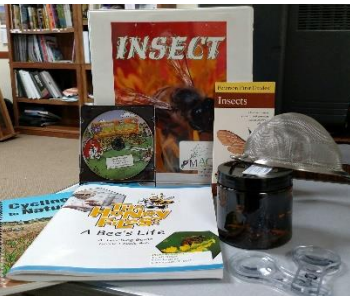
*Please email to [wfbaitc@live.com](mailto:wfbaitc@live.com), fax to 815-962-0022, or call 815-962-0653  
All program dates will be confirmed via email to the teacher making the request.*



## What else is offered through Ag in the Classroom?

### **Agri-Learning Kits:**

Ag in the Classroom has Agri-Learning Kits available for teachers to check out and use in their classrooms and curriculum. These kits are best suited for students in K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Agri-Learning kits include teacher's guides, books, videos, visuals, and hands on activities for students. A few of the kits we have available are: Seasons on the Farm, Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture, Getting to the Core: Apples and Orchards, and many more!



### **mAGic Kits:**

Ag in the Classroom has mAGic kits available for teachers to check out and use in their classrooms. These kits are best suited for students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. mAGic Kits include lesson plans and supplies for activities and exercises. The activities included are: mapping, graphing, sequencing, reading, writing, critical thinking, experimenting, and research. The kits available are: Poultry, Machines, Illinois, Insects, Dairy, Plants.

### **Middle School And High School Career Fairs:**

Ag in the Classroom is available to participate in career day activities. Agricultural careers are a growing sector in the marketplace. There is so much more to agriculture than farming and we need YOU to work with us to encourage students to consider a career in the Ag industry!

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## **Meet the Ag in the Classroom Staff**



*Diane Cleland has served as the Ag Literacy Coordinator for the past five years. She develops the local AITC program and books events with the local schools. Diane, with a background in agriculture, is also a classroom presenter.*



*Katie Rudy and Doni Nelson served as AITC Ag Educators. Katie and Doni visit the classrooms and bring their background in agriculture and education to area schools. Katie and Doni joined AITC in 2017.*



*This program is funded in part by a generous gift from the Boone County Grant Foundation.*